(b) if so, the details of the agreement entered into with INMARSAT; and

(c) the number of telephones that will be installed in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh under this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) To extend telecome facility to far-flung areas of Himachal Pradaesh, 30 numbers of Satellite village Public telephones have been planned. For this purpose, satellite phones are being procured by the Government through open competitive bids. Only the satellite segment at a concessional rate is being hired from INMARSAT. This service is being introduced after successful conclusion of a pilot project executed jointly by INMARSAT and the Department of Telecom. under a Memorandum of Understanding. INMARSAT provided satellite terminals free of cost during the pilot project. It also provided satellite segment. The pilot project was coordinated by DoT. For Operating the service no other agreement is required.

Steps for ensuring optimum growth of backward States

*36. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Fiscal Deficit *vis-a-vis* aggregate revenue deficit of each State and UT during the last three years;

(b) the factors responsible and measures contemplated to improve financial status of the State and UTs;

(c) the growth rate and related economic indicators of various States and UTs, alongwith the steps initiated to ensure optimum growth of each backward State as well as for removing regional imbalance of development; and

(d) the amount allocated by the Central, amount utilized by each State and UT for infrastructure development during the 8th and 9th Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As per the RBI Report, the gross fiscal deficit and the aggregate revenue deficit for the last

three years in respect of each State are given in the enclose Statement (*See* below). These fiscal indicators for UTs are not worked out and published routinely.

(b) Main factors responsible for deterioration in States' finances are steep rise in non-plan revenue expenditure, particularly the establishment expenditure, recurring losses of States' PSUs, and declaration in receipts.

State Governments who are autonomous under the Constitution take measures of their preference from time to time to improve their financial status. In recent months, as recommended by the National Development Council Sub-committee, some States have evolved and undertaken their own medium term fiscal reform programme. These state-specific programmes would aim at reducing revenue and fiscal deficits through increased revenue mobilization, reduction in non-plan revenue expenditure, correction in pricing subsidy and disinvestment.

(c) Growth rate and related economic indicators of the States for the last three years are given in Annexure. [*See Appendix* 188, *Annexure No.* 3]

Optimum growth of backward States and regional balance in development are ensured through devolution under the Finance Commission award and distribution of central asssistance for States' plan by the Planning Commission.

(d) Details of plan outlay and its utilization in infrastructure development to the States and UTs in the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans, are given in Annexure (a) and (b). [*See Appendix* 188, *Annexure No.* 4]

Statement

Steps for ensuring optimum growth of backward States

(Rs. in crore)

States	1996-97 (Account)		1997-98 (RE)		1998-99 (BE)	
	Gross Fiscal Deficit	Revenue Deficit	Gross Fiscal Deficit	Revenue Deficit	Gross Fiscal Deficit	Revenue Deficit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2811.5	3199.1	2735.0	761.5	3084.0	589.2
Arunachal Pradesh	70.0	—	112.7	—	93.4	—
Assam	73.8	—	674.0	38.0	959.2	301
Bihar	890.6	216.0	3092.7	1562.8	3897.8	2627.6
Goa	103.9	—	167.0	53.8	218.9	126.7
Gujarat	2358.3	591.4	2821.5	638.1	2370.9	—
Haryana	1094.4	718.7	1034.4	631.3	2604.3	1135.6
Himachal Pradesh	572.0	154.9	656.5	280.1	1452.3	914.1
Jammu & Kashmir	166.2	—	443.6		768.7	—
Karnataka	1944.0	578.9	1565.0	415.9	1901.3	151.0
Kerala	1542.5	643.0	2787.3	1574.9	1607.6	629.0
Madhya Pradesh	1926.3	1447.8	2350.5	756.1	3886.6	2507.2
Maharashtra	4953.7	1590.6	4884.1	669.6	7148.4	4621.1
Manipur	167.5	—	175.2	—	174.5	—
Meghalaya	23.1	—	162.3	—	179.9	—
Mizoram	125.3	—	100.8	—	87.7	—
Nagaland	184.2	—	203.9	10.9	222.4	67.4
Orissa	1602.1	830.5	1625.4	776.4	2442.9	1583.2
Punjab	1464.7	1357.1	2325.8	1121.4	2607.4	1049.8
Rajasthan	2506.5	866.0	2577.2	495.9	3762.9	1312.1
Sikkim	55.9	—	76.7	—	189.5	69.9
Tamil Nadu	2445.0	1103.6	2733.7	4471.3	1475.2	2668.6
Tripura	121.7	—	229.8	—	329.1	74.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttar Pradesh	5956.2	3179.1	11312.6	7618.4	10706.5	7093.8
West Bengal	3396.9	2135.2	4974.6	2934.7	4355.3	1656.4
NCT of Delhi	690.0	—	1063.2	—	252.7	—
TOTAL	43594.5	18611.9	50885.5	24811.1	59775.5	29178.2

NOTE: The States, against which no Revenue deficits have been shown, were in surplus in those years.

Illegal Narcotics Trade

*37. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the thriving Delhi-Chennai-Colombo international narcotics racket;

(b) if so, whether the kingpins of the narcotics trafficking racket between Delhi and Sri Lanka and their contacts/agents in the country have been identified;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to end the illegal narcotics trade and to deal with the persons involved in the racket in accordance with law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Government is aware of narcotics smuggling on Indo-Sri Lanka sector.

(b) and (c) Some of the key players have been identified. In a case of seizure of 14.5 kg of heroin, 1.10 kg of opium and 175 gms poppy granules on 7.6.99 from a farm-house in Delhi, 2 Indians and 5 Sri Lankans were arrested. These included some key players.

(d) Significant steps taken by the Government to prevent and check smuggling of narcotic drugs include constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the borders and holding of regular Coordination meetings by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence with Sri Lankan Authorities, amongst other. Action against arrested persons is taken under the provisions of the narcotics laws.